



## LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

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SEP 22 2004  
CITY OF SAN JOSE  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mayor Gonzales  
City Council Members  
San Jose City Council  
801 North First Street, Rm. 600,  
San Jose, CA 95110

September 20, 2004

Re: Coyote Valley Specific Plan Planning Process

Mayor Gonzales and Council Members,

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, which represents over 4,000 citizens of San Jose and 14,000 in Santa Clara County, has consistently been opposed to development in Coyote Valley. Once developed, the scenic, wildlife, and agricultural values of this area will be lost forever. San Jose's desire to secure its economic viability should not come at such a cost. However, since the planning process is underway we would like to take this opportunity to comment on the process to date.

The Sierra Club encourages the City of San Jose to support projects that prioritize compact development, maximum open space including farming, provisions for affordable housing and a variety of home types, mixed uses, and consideration for native plants and animals. In response to the planning process thus far we are very concerned that as it is currently progressing Coyote Valley will not result in a truly smart growth regionally responsible development. Many key issues have not received adequate attention including:

- Specific mechanisms to protect open space and agriculture.
- A concrete transportation demand management plan.
- Analysis of growth inducing impacts.
- Guaranteed affordable housing.

As discussed in a previous letter to the council we suggested that San Jose rigorously assess and plan for the long term protection of open space and the county's agricultural history. In addition, we are concerned that the effect of Coyote Valley development on the jobs-housing balance in the county will create a range of problems that other communities are not prepared to handle.

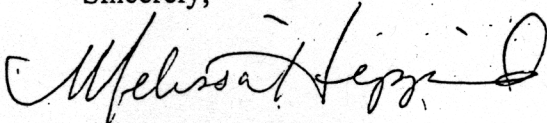
We would now like to raise the issue of wildlife impacts. South Santa Clara County as it currently exists allows for the movement of wildlife between the Diablo Range and the Santa Cruz mountains. Planning for the development of Coyote Valley must include a

detailed analysis and plan to ensure the long-term viability of wildlife corridors, as well as address other species specific impacts and offer plans for protection and mitigation. These concerns should be addressed in tandem with the County's habitat conservation plan process.

We recognize that now is the time to plan given the lessening of pressure from a slower economy. However, given the current state of the planning process we urge you to slow down and ensure that concrete plans are in place so that any development of Coyote Valley will minimize negative environmental impacts from sprawl and habitat impacts to impaired air and water quality. This is especially critical given that the habitat conservation plan process has not yet begun and will provide important information for decision making.

We want to thank the council for their hard work in overseeing this most important plan and appreciate your taking the time to consider the issues and concerns raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melissa Hippard", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Hippard  
Chapter Director

Cc: Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force Members  
Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Game  
Cay Goude, US Fish and Wildlife Service